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#118



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RAAB

RUBI

KOBLISH

EXCALIBUR



DARK
NIGHT
OF THE
BAMF!



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EXCALIBUR

United to preserve the dream of Professor Charles Xavier, they have sought to extend the message of the X-Men beyond the shores of America. Operating out of their headquarters on Muir Island in Scotland, they've sworn to defend mutantkind from a world that both hates and fears them, for they are... EXCALIBUR!



NIGHTCRAWLER

Born with the mutant ability to teleport short distances, stick to walls and ceilings, and turn virtually invisible when in deep shadows, the German-born Kurt Wagner is the blue-skinned leader of Excalibur.



COLOSSUS

The Russian mutant born Piotr Rasputin is the powerhouse of Excalibur. His artistic heart is masked by his cold, hard exterior, as Colossus has the ability to transform his flesh and blood into a form of impervious organic steel!



MEGGAN

Linked to the elemental forces of Great Britain as a faerie, the enigmatic but naive Meggan has the ability to change her physical form at will, as well as the power to shape the very forces of nature to fit her needs.



DOUGLOCK

Although his body is comprised of Phalanx physiology, Douglock is not a member of that alien race. Though his resemblance to the deceased Douglas Ramsay is not a coincidence, Douglock's quest for humanity and the truth about who he is continues to elude him.



SHADOWCAT



American-born Kitty Pryde has the mutant ability to turn her body intangible and walk on air with but a thought. Trained in the ways of the Samurai and the ninja, Shadowcat's physical prowess is balanced by her brilliant mind and her formal X-Men training.

PETE WISDOM



A former intelligence operative with the mutant ability to generate "hot knives". Boyfriend to Kitty Pryde, he remains a reluctant member of Excalibur.

MOIRA MacTAGGERT



Head of the Mutant Research Center on Muir Island, Moira has recently devoted her research to finding a cure for the mutant-killing Legacy Virus. As if this wasn't enough for her to deal with, Moira also bears the burden of being the first human to contract the deadly disease.

WOLFSBANE



Rahne Sinclair is the youngest member of Excalibur, but her mutant ability to transform from a shy young woman to a human/wolf hybrid and to a complete wolf makes her a force to be reckoned with!

LOCKHEED



An alien "dragon" that was adopted by KITTY PRIDE back when she was a member of the X-MEN. He is not only her pet, but a friend and confidant. He is usually good natured, but breathes fire when agitated.

PREVIOUSLY...

In Venice, Excalibur's battle with a group of Sidri bounty hunters ended when Douglock donated his components to the aliens, enabling them to rejoin their techno-organic collective.



Meanwhile, Moira MacTaggart remained in self-imposed quarantine, with Rahne Sinclair as her unwelcome companion. Rahne has endangered herself by joining Moira, risking continued exposure to the deadly Legacy Virus.



Also, Kitty Pryde returned from her S.H.I.E.L.D. mission to find Lockheed acting "spooked." Kitty was unaware that the reason for Lockheed's behavior was her stuffed Bamf doll, which has suddenly taken on sinister characteristics.





NEW YEAR'S EVIL

BEN RAAB
STORY

MEL RUBI
PENCILS

SCOTT KOBLISH
INKS

RS & COMICRAFT'S
KEFF SCHOLL
LETTERS

KEVIN
TINSLEY
COLORS

FRANK
PITTARESE
EDITS

BOB
HARRAS
CHIEF



**IT WAS A FORTNIGHT
PAST NEW YEAR'S
AND ALL THROUGH
EXCALIBUR'S CAMP...**

**...MANY A
CREATURE
WERE
STIRRING...**

**...MOST
INEXPLICABLY...**

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JUST OUTSIDE THE
BAMF-INFESTED
CONTROL BOOTH...

MAN, BUT PRYDE'S
BEEN ACTIN' RIGHT
DOGGY LATELY.

SHE'S NOT
STILL TICKED
ABOUT THAT SPAT
WE HAD BEFORE
SHE LEFT...? THAT
WAS NOT MY
FAULT!®

© SEE KP/AGS 1

HMP.
WOMEN...

PLEASE HALT FOR
TACTILE, VOCAL AND
RETINAL IDENTIFICATION
SCAN. PLACE YOUR RIGHT
HAND ON THE TOUCHPAD
AND PLEASE SPEAK
SLOWLY AND CLEARLY.

TOSS... OFF...
YA... BLOODY...
BLIGHTER.

IDENTITY
CONFIRMED.

WELCOME,
PETER WISDOM...

AMSCERY,
YA BUMS,
SCONCHES
COMIN'!

SNIFF!
SNIFF!
SULFUR AND
BRIMSTONE,
EHP

FORGOT
OUR "FEARLESS
LEADER" SCHEDULED
A WORKOUT BEFORE
MINE. HE MUST'VE
JUST LEFT.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE THIS,
ME... "WORKING
OUT."

TIME WAS WHEN THE ONLY EXERCISE
I'D STOMACH WAS A FAST JAUNT
DOWN TO THE PUB WITH M'MATES...
BACK WHEN I WAS STILL
A "SOLO" ACT FOR
M2-6.

NOW
I'VE GOTTA
PULL MY WEIGHT
AS PART OF A
TEAM... A
FAMILY.

THE
TIMES, THEY ARE
A'CHANGIN'...

COMPUTER:
RUN WISDOM
PROGRAM
ALPHA...

UNABLE TO COMPLY.
PREVIOUS PROGRAM
STILL OPERABLE.
SAFETY PROTOCOLS
DEACTIVATED...

"STILL
OPERABLE"?
WAGNER'S NOT
STUPID ENOUGH
TO LEAVE A
PROGRAM
RUNNING...

COMPUTER:
OPEN CONTROL
BOOTH
BLAST SHIELD...
IMMEDIATELY!

BLAST
SHIELD
OPEN...





AND AS PETE WISDOM WATCHES ONE RELATIONSHIP SLOWLY GO BAD...

...HIS TEAMMATE -- THE ELEMENTAL MUTANT, MEGGAN -- TAKES THE TIME TO SORT OUT THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HER LIFE.

DEVELOPMENTS BOTH PERSONAL...

...AND NATURAL.

POOR TREE... ALL SICK AND WITHERED. I'M SORRY I WASN'T HERE TO HELP YOU BEFORE YOU DIED.

IT'S JUST I'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN PROBLEMS, I NEGLECTED YOU AND YOUR WELL-BEING.

RIDICULOUS BOY PROBLEMS.

UH, MEGGAN...?

SPEAKING OF WHOM...

PIOTR RASPUTIN! WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT AXE?!

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE I AM DOING? I'M GOING TO CHOP DOWN THIS INFORM, OLD TREE THAT I MIGHT PLANT A NEW ONE IN ITS PLACE.

YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING!

THIS TREE'S CONNECTION TO THE EARTH -- ALIVE -- OR DEAD -- IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THE CONNECTIONS WE HUMAN BEINGS SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER!

YOU EXTINGUISH A FLAME IN WINTER SIMPLY BECAUSE ITS FIRES BURNED LESS BRIGHTLY IN YOUR FACE?

FORGIVE MY IGNORANCE... I'M TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T WANT ME TO CHOP DOWN THIS DEAD TREE --

-- BUT I'M AFRAID YOUR METAPHOR IS LOST ON THIS SIMPLE FARM-BOY.





...THE TECHNO-ORGANIC ALIEN -- DOUGLOCK -- SEARCHES FOR A CERTAIN PURPLE DRAGON.







"-- ATOP
THAT HILL."

THE
JIG IS UP,
GUYS!
SKEEDADDLE!

SMIFF! THAT
STENCH...?!



**SULFUR AND
BRIMSTONE.**
THE RESIDUE OF
NIGHTCRAWLER'S
TELEPORT.

THOUGH FOR THE
LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T
IMAGINE WHY HE'D
WANT TO SQUASH
ME LIKE A GERRA
WITH A FIVE TON
BOULDER!

HMMN... I'M
NO WOLVERINE, BUT
MY NOSE IS TELLING ME --



"-- WE'VE
GOT PESTS."

AND A
NASTY BREED AT
THAT, I'LL TELL
YE!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW, BUT WHOEVER
THE CULPRIT IS, THEY'VE
GOT NIGHTCRAWLER'S
TELEPORT SIGNATURE
REGISTERIN' ALL
OVER THE BLOODY
ISLAND!

AN'
NOW, A GOOD
NUMBER O' MY MOST
DELICATE SYSTEMS
WILL NAE STOP
GLITCHIN'!

WHY, A
VIAL O' THE
LEGACY VIRUS
NEARLY SPILLED WHEN
THE COMPUTER TESTIN'
IT MALFUNCTIONED! IF
RAHNE HERE HADN'T
CORRECTED THE
ERROR IN
TIME...

...THIS
WHOLE ISLAND
WOULD'VE BEEN AN
INSTANT 'HOT
ZONE'!



TRUE, BUT BORROWING A PAGE FROM THAT FICTIONAL SUPER-SLEUTH OF YORE -- SHERLOCK HOLMES...

"...TO EXPLAIN THE IMPOSSIBLE, ONE MUST RULE OUT ALL POSSIBILITIES AND ACCEPT WHATEVER IMPOSSIBILITY -- HOWEVER IMPROBABLE -- THAT REMAINS AS THE SOLUTION TO THE MYSTERY."















AGAIN!
FIRST, IT'S
BLACK AIR...
THEN THE SIDRI
HUNTERS... AND
NOW PLUSH
TOYS.

STAYING
ALIVE HAS
BECOME SO
TEDIOUS
LATELY.

UH...
OH! TIME TO
EXIT...

...STAGE
LEFT!

ENOUGH
OF THIS MISCHIEF,
LITTLE ONES.

SETTLE
DOWN AND WE
WILL RETURN YOU TO
WHERE YOU BELONG.



AND
HOW EXACTLY
DO YOU PROPOSE
WE DO THAT,
RASPUTIN?



ENERGY
MANIPULATION,
HERR WISDOM. EH,
DOUGLOCK...?

RUNNING
ANALYSIS...
RUNNING...
ANALYSIS
COMPLETE.

IN THEORY, MEGGAN'S
ELEMENTAL POWERS
SHOULD BE ABLE TO
TAP INTO THAT "HELL"
YOU SPOKE OF...

... IF SHE CAN DISCERN
THE PROPER SPATIAL
RELATIONS BETWEEN
DIMENSIONS AT NEAR
INFINITE POINTS WITHOUT
CAUSING A COMPLETE
UNIVERSAL BREAKDOWN
IN THE PROCESS.



SEEMS WE HAVE
REACHED AN
IMPASSE. WHY NOT
SURRENDER...?

SAYS
YOU!

WE'VE GOT
THE WINNING ACE UP
OUR SLEEVES, YA TIN-
PLATED WOODSMAN!



SETTLE
DOWN, BOYS...
I AM HERE!
TO BE
MORE PRECISE, I AM
EVERYWHERE.

IN THE
SHADOWS LURKING
UNDER EVERY CHILD'S BED...
IN THE DARK, SUBCONSCIOUS
RECESSES OF EVERY HUMAN
HEAD... YOU WILL FIND ME
AND MY REALM OF
HORRORS!

FOR I AM
NIGHTMARE --

-- AND YOU,
EXCALIBUR, HAVE
SOMETHING I
WANT...

NEXT ISSUE:
"PRELUDES AND
NIGHTMARES"
EXCALIBUR'S DARK
AND DEADLY JOURNEY TO
THE CENTER OF THE MIND!